STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1969

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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. J. BRIDGFORD

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health:
DR. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H,
Civic Centre
Telephone Number : Stourport-on-Severn 3101/2/3, 2318 (4 lines)

Public Health Inspector:
MR. N. SYKES, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Clerk:
MRS. J. O'FLYNN

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1969

To the Chairman and Members of the Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Gazzard and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1969.

The Report is divided into the following sections:

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

"B" General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

"D" Housing.

"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food

"F" Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Main Occupation of the Area

The industrial activity within the district is extremely varied and includes carpet manufacture, ceramic insulators, chains for many purposes, wire cables, fans, timber products, concrete slabs, kerbs etc., electrical transformers, vinegars and sauces, bulk storage of petroleum spirit and oil and various light engineering works.

There is also in the district one of the largest Power Stations in the Midlands.

The River Severn is navigable for commercial traffic but it is being used less and less and the principal use is that of pleasure cruising. The same remarks apply to the canal and the basins but the combination of the river, canal and basins provides quite a busy focus of holiday activity which promotes further industry in the building, repair and furnishing of the boats.

SECTION " A "

AREA IN ACRES	3218
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1969) ... according to rate books	5321
RATEABLE VALUE 1st April	£750482
SUM REPRESENTED BY ONE PENNY RATE ...	£3120
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION (June 1969)	16090

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	*Female*	1969	1968
Legitimate	139	148	287	338
Illegitimate	11	6	17	19
	150	154	304	357

THE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population for the Urban District	18.9	23.4
THE BIRTH RATE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES for the same period	16.3	16.9
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS per cent of total live births was	6.00	5.32

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	*Female*	1969	1968
Legitimate	—	2	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—	1
	—	2	2	6

THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total live and still births was	7.00	19.20
THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total live and still births for England and Wales for the same period	13.00	14.00

	Male	*Female*	1969	1968
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	150	156	306	363

DEATHS

	Male	*Female*	1969	1968
TOTAL DEATHS	64	76	140	129

THE DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population was	8.7	8.5
THE DEATH RATE for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was ...	11.9	11.9
MATERNAL DEATH (including Abortion) ...	Nil	Nil

	1969	1968
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 births (live and still) was ...	Nil	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY for England and Wales for the same period per 1,000 births (live and still) was	0.19	0.24

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	*Female*	1969	1968
Legitimate	1	3	4	5
Illegitimate	1	Nil	1	Nil
	2	3	5	5

INFANT MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 total live births was	16.00	14.00
INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 total live births for the same period for England and Wales was	18.00	18.00
INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 illegitimate live births was	59	Nil

NEONATAL MORTALITY

	1969	1968
Deaths of Infants under four weeks	5	5

Representng a rate of 16.00 per 1,000 live births.
The Deaths of Infants under four weeks in England and Wales represents a rate of 12.00 per 1,000 live births.

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	*Female*
Congenital Malformations	Nil	1
Other ill defined diseases	4	1
Pneumonia	1	1

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE

	Male	*Female*
The deaths of infants under one week number	2	3

representing a rate of 16 per 1,000 live and still births.

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

The Still births and deaths under one week numbered 7 representing a rate of 23 per 1,000 live and still births.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	24
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATHS (Including Transferable Deaths)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75 and over
B19 (1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19 (3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19 (4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19 (6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19 (7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
B19 (8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
B19 (9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B19 (10) Leukaemia	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19 (11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (1) Other Endocrine etc., Diseases	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B23 Anaemias	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
B46 (4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	7	7
	F	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	12
B29 Other forms of Heart Disease	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10
B46 (5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
B31 Influenza	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B32 Pneumonia	M	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
B33 (1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

B33 (2) Asthma	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B36 Intestinal	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Obstruction and Hernia	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46 (7) Other Diseases	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
of Digestive System	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B46 (8) Other Diseases,	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Genito-Urinary System	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
B46 (10) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
System	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
B43 Birth Injury,	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Difficult Labour, etc.	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B44 Other Causes of	M	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Perinatal Mortality	F	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE47 Motor Vehicle	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Accidents	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE48 All other	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Accidents	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
BE49 Suicide and	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
self-inflicted Injuries	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTAL All Causes	M	64	2	—	1	—	1	1	3	5	16	13	22
	F	76	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	6	19	45

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Services

Producer samples of milk and samples of piped water supplies are examined by the County Laboratory, Worcester, together with food for chemical analysis. The major part of the bacteriological work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Service

This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority, and there is a system of wireless control with the headquarters in the County Medical Officer's Department at Worcester. Th Kidderminter Ambulance Station provides a fully manned 24 hour service. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

Hospitals

All Hospitals are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board through their Management Committee. The Kidderminster General Hospital received the majority of hospital patients from this district. The Lucy Baldwin Hospital provides the district and surrounding area with maternity beds.

Cases admitted to the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital during the year	583
Women delivered	454
Infants born alive	454
Infant deaths	1
Infants stillborn	1
Maternal Deaths	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil

Infectious Diseases

Beds for Infectious Diseases are provided at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen and at Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Tuberculosis

Out patient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary where Dr. Cronin attends, Wednesday mornings, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Inpatient treatment is arranged at Newtown, Worcester. Prevention and after-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority and the service is administered locally by the After-care Sub-Committee.

Venereal Disease

In view of the closure of the clinic at Kidderminster Hospital, treatment and "follow-up" are carried out at clinics at the following hospitals :

Worcester Royal Infirmary

Dudley Guest Hospital

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Nursing in the Home

The service is administered by the Local Health Authority,

There are :

1. Three nurses who deal principally with the Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.

2. Three whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses who visit infants and children in the home and are responsible for their welfare from fourteen days until they attend school at five years old. From school entry they assist the School Nurse where necessary with school medical inspections, treatment of minor ailments at the clinics and visit certain cases of mental defect. They act as general health advisors to the family in conjunction with the doctors and give help wherever practicable, particularly with ageing members of the family.

3. Another Health Visitor also visits cases of Tuberculosis.

4. A Geriatric Health Visitor who is responsible for the Welfare of the aged in their own homes.

Clinics

(a) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante-Natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital in the charge of Doctors R. S. MacArthur, C. Mackie, D. K. Black, J. T. N. Williams, W. T. Mackie, J. W. Bywater and Matron respectively. A clinic is also held by the district midwives on the second and fourth Monday in each month.

(b) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

(i) Lucy Baldwin, a weekly clinic with doctor in attendance first and third Friday of each month.

(ii) Wilden, held third Wednesday in each month.

(iii) Areley Kings, held in Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on second and fourth Thursday afternoons. (in charge of Dr. J. W. Bywater).

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The majority of the dwellings and industrial premises etc. are supplied with water by the North West Worcestershire Water Board. The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year and there has been no known contamination of the water supply in the area. Regular sampling has been carried out with satisfactory results being obtained. No houses are supplied from standpipes apart from a small number of temporary dwellings interspersed by caravans. Fluoride is not added artificially to the public supply.

Sewerage and Drainage

A public enquiry was held during the year to consider the Council's proposals to extend and modernise pumping stations and to extend and enlarge sewers. The Council's consultants are now preparing the details of the scheme and it is anticipated that a commencement of the work may take place in 1970.

SECTION "D"

HOUSING

Number of Council Houses ... ... (use of 3 and 5 Minster Road and St. Michaels Lodge)	1491	
Number of Applicants	228	131 ordinary 97 old people
Number of Applicants living in lodgings	57	35 ordinary 22 old people
Approximate total number of persons represented by the list of applicants ...	445	

6 demolition orders and 2 closing orders were made during the year and 1 closing order was substituted by a demolition order. 14 houses were demolished.

SECTION "E"

SAMPLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS

Adulteration of Food

Mr. Owen, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports as follows:—

1. **Sampling of Retail Supplies**

122 samples were taken, made up as follows:—

Ordinary milk	12 samples
Channel Islands milk	4 samples
Miscellaneous foods	103 samples
Drugs	5 samples

Unsatisfactory samples were as follows :—

(a) Pineapple and grapefruit squash — contained cyclamates. Correspondence with manufacturers continuing.

(b) Blackcurrant Health Drink — deficient in blackcurrant juice. Matter has already been taken up with manufacturers by another Authority.

(c) Steak and Kidney Pudding — containing a fly. Manufacturers prosecuted; fined £10 with £3 3s. 0d. costs.

(d) Bottle of Milk — contaminated with milk skin and mould growth. Proceedings pending against dairy.

(e) Sterilized Milk — containing a slug. Prosecution pending against dairy.

2. **Sampling at other than Retail Level**

161 ordinary milk and 12 Channel Islands milk samples were taken from churns.

From one farm 2 churns out of a consignment of 10 contained 2.0% and 0.6% extraneous water. Repeats of these showed 1.5% and 2.3% of extraneous water. The farmer concerned has been warned and further samples will be taken in the near future.

A considerable part of the milk retailed in Stourport is bottled at a processing dairy in Kidderminster. 51 ordinary milk (including 24 from bulk tanks) and 33 Channel Islands milk samples of incoming supplies were taken at this dairy. All were satisfactory.

I feel that this year attention should be drawn to the increasing number of complaints of unsatisfactory food purchased in the district.

The following is a list of complaints made by consumers in 1969.

Crispbread	infected with spider beetles
Peeled Tomatoes	Grub in Tin
Sterilised Milk	Snail in Milk
Steak and Kidney Pudding	Fly in Pudding
Bottle of Milk	Mould
Jam Roll	Staleness
Frozen Peas	Seed pod in packet
Flour	Larva of Flour Moth
Bottle of Milk	Dirty Bottle
Chocolate Roll	Mould
Ham Cured Shoulder	Phosphate Crystals
Loaf of Bread	Mould
Meat Patty	Mould
Cheese	Mould
Loaf of Bread	Staining with grease
Chitterlings	Unsatisfactory condition
Rissole	Wood in Rissole

It is to be expected that this pattern will continue principally because of the ever increasing amount of pre-packed food offered for sale after being transported over long distances, often under unsatisfactory conditions and all this means that greater vigilance has to be imposed by inspectors and the housewife. An instance of the trend is that of the meat patty mentioned above. Such a commodity has a life of 2 to 3 days between manufacture and consumption but this particular meat patty was made in Stoke-on-Trent, transported to Wombourne, transferred to a bread delivery agent and thence to the retailer who then waits for a purchaser who in turn takes it home and may eat it immediately or may not. What price a "fresh" meat patty.

Other Foods

It has become too time consuming to enumerate and separate the types of food surrendered voluntary by the food traders in the town. The biggest feature of this aspect of the work in the department is the use of refrigerated food storage cabinets which appear to be getting larger and larger. The refrigeration machinery breaks down, quite often during the week-end, and a large quantity of food is rendered unfit as a result.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year at clinics, schools or by general practitioners was as follows :—

Pre-school children	108
School children	5
Reinforcing doses	390

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

Immunisation against poliomyelitis is now available at all infant welfare clinics.

Total number of children immunised during the year ... 491

Smallpox Vaccination

Pre-school children vaccinated	263
School children vaccinated	22
Pre-school children re-vaccinated ...	3
School children re-vaccinated	16

General

Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:—

Diseases	*Total Cases Notified*	*Cases Admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Measles	201	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—
Infective Jaundice	2	—	—

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year:

Age Periods	*New Cases*				*Deaths*			
	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
	M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*
0—1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

B.G.C. Inoculation

Number of consents for testing and inoculation	219
Number tested	196
Percentage of acceptances	89.90
Number positive	17
Result negative	176
Percentage positive	8.60
Vaccinated	173
Absent for Vaccination	3
Number deferred	Nil

Conclusion

The modernisation of the sewage system is becoming more urgent as the number of houses increases with its corresponding increased " load " on the system. It is to be hoped that the Consultant Engineers will be able to complete this detailed scheme at an early date and allow the work to proceed.

If the plans for re-organising Local Government and the National Health Service proceed in anything like their present form, the trend to which I referred last year will continue. The individual as a fit person or as a patient will matter even less than they do now.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council, Mr. Sykes and the Council's staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

R. W. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1969

To the Chairman and Members of the Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report of your Public Health Inspector for the year 1969.

Meat Inspection

The tables below give details of meat inspected during the year 1969 :—

ANIMALS INSPECTED

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*
Number killed ...	55	—	—	537	162
Number Inspected ...	55	—	—	537	162
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci : Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	—	—	1	8
Pecentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci ...	9.09	—	—	0.2	5.00
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Percentages of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.6
Cysticercosis ...	—	—	—	—	—

Meat was condemned for the following reasons:

Cause	*Weight*
Tuberculosis	10 lbs.
Abscesses	46 lbs.
Distomatosis and other parasitic conditions ...	14 lbs.
Pericarditis	3 lbs.
	73 lbs.

Other Foods

205 voluntary surrender certificates were issued to local traders in respect of food unfit for human consumption by reason of unsound cans, refrigerator breakdowns, damaged containers, and food taken from shelves not having been sold prior to the recommended date. Previously it has been the practice to separate the various commodities and calculate the total weights, this year the quantity has been so great that no attempt has been made to do so. This particular aspect of your inspector's duties is indicative of the growth of the town, more houses, more people, more food turned over. The list of foods brought to the office by the general public has been included in Section "E" along with the report of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures.

Food and Drugs Act 1955 — Section 16

Registration of premises used for the manufacture of prepared foods:—

Number on Register	9
Premises Registered for sale of Ice Cream	83

HOUSING

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Section 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
(3)	Number of Undertakings not to re-let accepted ...	Nil
(4)	Number of houses demolished following Statutory Action	14
(5)	Closing order revoked and Demolition Order substituted	1

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Act.

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
(2)	Number of Houses in which defects were remedied following formal notices	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act 1957 (Clearance Areas) ... ... Nil

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The information recorded in the office is as tabulated below and shows little change from last year. I am sure that the information recorded is incorrect but I find it increasingly difficult to carry out routine inspections of any type and one has to deal with current problems because they need immediate attention and other work has to wait.

Class of premises	*Number of Premises Registered during the year*	*Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year*	*Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during year*
Offices	2	37	4
Retail Shops ...	3	81	30
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	Nil	3	1
Catering Establishments open to the public and canteens ...	Nil	17	10
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	2	—
	5	140	41

Analysis of Persons Employed

Class of Premises	*Number of Employees*
Offices	220
Retail Shops	397
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	49
Catering establishments open to the public	122
Canteens	3
Fuel Storage Depots	27
	818
	436 Males
	382 Females
Number of Accidents reported	3

Public Cleansing

Refuse Collection

The weekly collection of refuse has once again been maintained except for the disturbances occasioned by Bank Holidays. One more new freighter was purchased during the year but not actually used until 1st January, 1970, this being a 35 cu. yard Fore and Aft Tipper capable of dealing with $1\frac{1}{4}$ cu. yd. containers in addition to manual loading.

Servicing of the district with two crews is becoming a difficult proposition but the division into three rounds cannot be done until there are three reliable vehicles in use. Of the four freighters two are 12 and 10 years old and cannot be relied upon for full-time use. One feature of the service I must comment upon and that is the consistent hard work put in by the outside staff. I receive many favourable coments from householders in the town and as the work is predominantly manual, entailing extremely unpleasant tasks at times, I believe the Council is extremely fortunate in keeping together a loyal body of workers.

Refuse Disposal

The Weatherill L.50 put into operation in November, 1968 has changed the whole method of working on the tip. No firing of the refuse is carried out and as far as is possible the recommendations of the Ministry of Health for controlled tipping are being observed. It has been quite a considerable job to transform the shape of the tip while still receiving refuse in order to allow proper control to be achieved and thousands of tons of material have been moved about. The tip attendant has used the machine in a manner that has allowed the change to take place and I estimate that the machine has paid for itself already in prolonging the estimated life of the tipping area.

	1968			1969		
	tons	*cwts.*	*qrs.*	*tons*	*cwts.*	*qrs.*
Waste paper collected	80	5	0	82	12	1
Income	£569	2	4	£710	4	8

Cesspool Emptying

The work carried out by the tanker is increasing year by year. In order to provide cover for the service a stand-by tanker was purchased at a cost of £225. This has proved to be a sound investment and will be an asset for the immediate future in order that the service may be continuous and allow for break-downs and for major servicing to be carried out on the regular vehicle.

Outdoor Staff employed on Public Cleansing

2 Refuse Freighter Driver/Loaders
10 Refuse Loaders (2 acting as relief drivers)
1 Refuse and Salvage Driver/Loader
1 Refuse and Salvage Loader
1 Salvage Baler/Weighbridge Attendant full-time
1 Salvage Baler part-time
1 Gully/Cesspool Emptier/Driver
1 Gully/Cesspool Emptier/Attendant
1 Tip Attendant

RODENT CONTROL

The public sewers were baited with fluoracetamide twice during the year in an attempt to control the rat population both in the sewerage system and on the surface.

Summary of Work carried out in 1969

Properties other than sewers	*Domestic Etc.*	*Agricultural*
1. Number of properties in district	5961	27
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification ...	295	—
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	270	—
(ii) Mice	37	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	88	7
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	50	5
(ii) Mice	2	2

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public Conveniences serving the town are as follows :—

(a) Bridge Street, Men and Women.

(b) Lion Hill, Men and Women.

(c) Rear Swan Hotel, Men's Urinal only.

(d) Memorial Park, Men and Women.

(e) Severn Meadows Car Park, Men and Women. Open during holiday season only.

(f) Walshes Farm Car Park, Men and Women. Open during holiday season only.

In spite of the amount of damage by fair means and foul these conveniences have functioned satisfactorily throughout the year.

MORTUARY

In 1969 38 bodies were placed in the Council's Mortuary. (22 from outside the district).

Factories Act 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspection for the purpose of provisions as to Health (including inspection by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	*Number on Register*	*Number of*		
		Inspections	*Written Notices*	*Occupiers Prosecuted*
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	69	12	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	2	—	—
	71	16	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	*Number of Cases in which defects were found*				*Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted*
	Found	*Remedied*	*Referred to H.M. Inspector*	*Referred by H.M. Inspector*	
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	1	—

Summary of Visits 1969

Housing Acts	
Inspections and Recordings	19
Revisits	88
Overcrowding	—
Improvement Grants	2
Rent Act	
Certificate of Disrepair	Nil
Revisits	Nil
Public Health Acts	
Complaints	76
Revisits	32
Infectious Disease	4
Food Hygiene Regulations	
Inspections	59
Ice Cream Premises	21
Food and Drugs Acts	
Unsound Food	61
Milk and Dairies Regulations	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	
Inspections	54
Accidents	2
Caravan Sites	76
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	77
Factories Acts	
Inspections	5

Refuse Collection and Disposal	75
Salvage Depot	190
Tip	186
Weighbridge	170
Clean Air Act	
Observations	3
Notices and Interviews	8
Slaughterhouses	
Routine	2
Meat Inspection	90
Mortuary	7
Noise Abatement Act	23
Public Conveniences	12
Miscellaneous	49
Water Samples Bact.	28
Water Samples Chem.	3
Trade Effluent	16
Visits	34
Scrap Metal Dealers	4
Radioactive Substance Act	2
Civic Amenities Act	32
Pet Animals Act	2

Conclusion

Once again the report registers a substantial increase in the number of inhabited houses and population. At some time in the near future it is going to be necessary to consider the appointment of a second inspector if the whole range of duties is to be carried out but I realise it would be unwise to take any action during the present period of waiting for "Maud."

The bulk of the information supplied in the report is required by various Ministry departments, monthly, quarterly and annually and forms the backbone, but two aspects of work in the department require no official return and are featuring more and more in the day to day routine. These are Clean Air and Noise. Both have been subject to fairly recent legislation and both appear to be causing increasing concern. Quite briefly may I comment that it appears completely illogical for the Government to produce legislation to deal with a problem and on the other hand allow and even encourage activities to defeat their own object. It is illogical to have a Clean Air Act and no Fuel Policy, it is illogical to have a Noise Abatement Act and to encourage larger and noisier aircraft and vehicles. The diesel engine embodied in large and heavy vehicles is becoming intolerable from both points of view, air pollution at street level and noise in and about where people are living, working, and sleeping. More and more complaints are being received in the office, particularly regarding noise and solutions are often hard to find.

May I express my appreciation of the help and encouragement from the Chairman and Members of the Council and from Dr. Markham and all other colleagues in the office.

N. SYKES

Public Health Inspector